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new Journal intended as a moral and religious, as well as a
spiritual, and political organ, and a Repository of historical and other
interesting documents relating to the African race.

THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY, AND COLONIAL JOURNAL.

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NOTICES.

(3) All former debts for the Colonization Herald, and all remittances of moneys from the State of Pennsylvania, should be sent to Gen. Agent of Colonization Society, corner of George and Seventh streets, Philadelphia.

(3) This work is now subject to newspaper postage only.

CASE OF THE CAPTURED SLAVE SHIPS.

The capture of these vessels by British cruisers, involves a question of great National delicacy and importance, and which has been the subject of negotiation between our Government and that of Great Britain—we refer to the proposed mutual right of search on the African coast, for the suppression of this traffic. The Directors of the Colonization Society feel the greatest desire to see this unnatural trade abolished, and they believe the object may be achieved without compromitting any important principle of National honor or welfare.

In the correspondence on this subject between Mr. Adams and Mr. Canning, Mr. A., in his letter of the 24th of June, 1823, expressed his willingness to concede the right exercised by the British cruisers in their late captures, provided the capture and detention should be on the responsibility of the captors, and on the condition that the captured party should be delivered over for trial to the tribunals of his own country. But, as no convention has been entered into between the two Governments, the Directors of the Colonization Society, as citizens of the United States, cannot adopt any measures, in anticipation of the action of our Government.

The following extracts from a communication of Governor Buchanan, shows that the American flag is in common use by slave ships on the coast

of Africa. It is, however, gratifying to learn, that an American armed vessel is soon to be despatched to that coast, by the Navy Department, to protect our flag from such desecration.

"The chief obstacle to the success of the very active measures pursued by the British Government for the suppression of the slave trade on this coast, is the AMERICAN FLAG. Never was that proud banner of freedom so extensively used by those pirates upon liberty and humanity as this season. Probably three-fourths of the vessels boarded and found to be undoubted slavers, are protected by American papers and the American flag, and consequently go free. In nearly every case, these vessels are built in the United States—not unfrequently they are owned by merchants in New York and Baltimore. Many of the papers are made out at Havana, and signed by the American Consul—Triste—who should be held responsible. I have seen and conversed with several British Naval officers since my arrival, and they all tell the same story, and declare they could seize an American slaver every day, if they had authority. Out of a multitude of cases, I will mention the following well authenticated :

"The *Venus*, of Baltimore, Wm. Phillips, master and owner—(his own representation,)—American colors and American papers; boarded by the *Dolphin* B. brig of war; three days after, left the coast with 830 slaves!

"The *Mary Ann Cassard*, taken and sent into Sierre Leone by Lt. Killet, of H. B. M. brig *Brisk*; was cleared on account of her American papers, and Killet amerced in heavy damages; a fortnight after, she was taken by the same officer, with upwards of 200 slaves on board!

"The *Euphrates*, boarded by Lt. Seagram; American colors and papers; completely fitted up for slaves.

"The *Eagle*, of Baltimore; American colors and papers; seized with a cargo of slaves on board.

"I omit to mention here a number of American vessels, whose names I have, and shall forward to the Secretary of the Navy—which are known to be slavers, but on board of which slaves have not been actually found or known to be."

DESPATCHES FROM LIBERIA.

We now submit to the Public a communication from Governor Buchanan, relating to matters of the deepest interest to the Colony, and the great cause of Humanity. Governor Buchanan has shown a degree of independence, energy and valor seldom surpassed. We are gratified to know that his health (which was seriously affected soon after his arrival in Liberia) is much improved, and that his administration of affairs has been very successful. His bold and decisive measures against the slave trade, must have a powerful effect in banishing its atrocities from the Liberian coast. It is high time that the authorities of this nation, whose flag of Liberty is desecrated, and spread forth before the face of the world and Heaven, to protect this outrageous commerce, should adopt prompt and strong measures to rescue it from this reproach. The People, we believe, will demand action on this subject, Governor Buchanan's statements and appeals must arouse all good men from their insensibility to the extent and horrors of this traffic.

The enemies of Colonization have frequently thrown out the idea that the

Colonists were lending their countenance to the slave trade, or at least, that they were exposed to temptations to favor this trade, which it would be difficult, if not impossible, to resist. It is undoubtedly true, that so universal is the slave trade among the native tribes on the African coast, that an individual there, would he avoid all intercourse with those engaged in it, must needs go out of Africa. That the Liberian Colony has, from its origin, exerted a very decided influence against this traffic, is undeniable. This influence, under Ashmun, was great. It has been exerted in repeated instances since with effect. The movements of Governor Buchanan, and the zeal with which they were sustained at great hazard by the citizens of the Colony, rebukes the spirit of detraction which would leave no virtue or merit in the character of the Liberian Colonists.

In evidence of the spirit with which the Executive Committee have recently proceeded against the slave trade, we copy the following resolution, transmitted by the last conveyance to the Colony.

"Resolved, That the Governor and Council be requested to pass such laws as will most effectually prevent any communication between the citizens of Liberia and the slave traders; and that as the latter are regarded and declared by the laws of civilized nations to be pirates and outlaws, any citizen of Liberia holding communication with, or furnishing aid to, any slave trader should be dealt with and punished in the same manner as are citizens or subjects of any civilized State, who are guilty of dealing with or succoring an enemy in time of war. And that any Colonist who shall attach himself to any slave dealer or slave factory on the coast of Western Africa, or having attached himself to such slave factory, and being notified by the Governor of Liberia or other proper officer to withdraw, shall be guilty of aiding in making irons, or otherwise of directly or indirectly aiding or abetting in the slave trade, shall be declared guilty of felony, and suffer the punishment of death."

In communicating this resolution, the General Agent of the Society expressed the views of the Committee in the following language:

"The strongest hold which Colonization has had on its patrons for years, has been the belief that it was the only effectual remedy for the slave trade; and it was natural to believe that those who had returned to the land of their fathers, and found in Liberia an asylum from the oppression of slavery, would wage unceasing war against this system of cruelty, so long practiced upon their brethren.

"For ages, adverse opinions have been entertained with regard to the moral and intellectual capabilities of the colored race. Colonizationists believe them capable (under equally favorable circumstances) of the same degree of elevation attained by the white man; and in establishing the Colonies of Liberia, are endeavoring to carry out their views and furnish to the world practical evidence of their correctness. The civilized world is regarding this experiment with intense interest. It must be carried on. The cupidity and baseness of a few individuals must not be allowed to defeat it, however severe and summary the laws necessary to restrain them, or however painful their execution.

"We trust that the Legislative Council will not hesitate to pass the necessary laws, and provide for their most vigorous execution, inflicting condign punishment on every offender."

The following note will show how the Euphrates came into the possession of Governor Buchanan:

H. M. BRIG FORESTER, AUG. 17.

SIR:—At your Excellency's request I have been on board the schooner Euphrates, and find her leaguers* much resembling in appearance, those which I found first on board of her four months since, but during the time she was said to be in the rice trade, there were merely casks of a smaller size. In addition to which, I have received positive information that she was on or about a given day, to take in afresh her leaguers at Galinas, and fill with water, and then proceed to New Cesters, (at which place her slave cargo had been landed,) and ship her slaves. It was two or three days after this date that the Harlequin fell in with her on her road to New Cesters, and gave her up to your Excellency's authority. I was myself at that time on my way there to look out for her.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your most humble and obedt. servt.,

[SIGNED,] FRANCIS G. BOND,

Lt. Commanding H. M. B. Forester.

To his Excellency Gov. BUCHANAN.

GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, MONROVIA, }
August 10, 1839. }

MY DEAR SIR:—You will be surprised to receive this by the slave schooner Euphrates, and probably your surprise will not be lessened when you know that this slaver is a prize sent to the United States under my orders for trial. I am not ignorant of the responsibility I have assumed in seizing a vessel under American colors, not actually having slaves on board, but my heart is sick with the daily exhibition of my country's flag protecting this traffic, accursed of God, and loathed by all good men, and I am determined to know, even at my own risk, whether the American Government will act in defence of her honor and the interests of humanity when fairly brought to the test.

The Euphrates is one of a number of vessels whose names I forwarded in May last to the Secretary of the Navy as engaged in the slave trade, and awaiting their cargoes of human beings on this coast under American colors. All the others mentioned at that time in my communication to Mr. Paulding have sailed with *full cargoes of slaves* for the Havana, and the Euphrates was on the eve of embarking between three and four hundred slaves at New Cesters, when most providentially, as I must think, she fell into my hands and was detained.

From the description received of this vessel from British officers who had examined her, I ordered her away on her touching here in May last, forbidding her at the same time from again appearing in our waters. Some time afterwards she anchored again in our roads, and, had I been in a condition to capture her then I should have done so, but I was obliged to content myself with ordering her off again. The very next week she was boarded by H. B. M. ship Harlequin in *Bassa Cove*, while in the act of filling her water leaguers, of which she has *thirty on board*. So strong was the evidence of her guilt, that the commander of the Harlequin, Sir Francis Russell, though aware that the American flag protected her against him, would not let her go, but brought her up here and delivered her to me. Besides, the *prima facie* evidence of her character exhibited by her water leaguers,

* Water casks, of the capacity of two hogsheads each.

(which in every such case is considered abundant to ensure the condemnation of Spanish and Portuguese vessels,) I had collected such an amount of testimony, and knew so well the character and business of the vessel, that I could not, without doing violence to my conscience, allow her to depart on her nefarious voyage, but kept her to be sent home and tried.

You will see from the copies of depositions I have taken in this case that there is not the smallest doubt of this vessel being a slave trader—indeed, the captain does not deny but that was the object of her being brought to the coast, though he attempts to justify himself on the ground that she *has not yet had slaves on board*, and that he should have left her with her colors and papers as soon as he should have sold her. But the truth is, she is owned at New Cesters by a regular slave trader, and this fellow, Captain Molau, is only a sham owner, using the sanction and protection of the American authority to carry on his vile traffic. She has been boarded *fifteen* times by British cruizers, two or three times carried into Sierra Leone, and cleared in court only on the ground of her being under American protection. She is as well known on the coast for a slaver as any vessel ever in these waters, and it will be a hard case if she cannot be condemned.

Fearing that you might be possibly away from Washington, I have sent copies of the depositions to Mr. Cresson, and consigned the vessel to his care, (until she is turned over to the U. S. Marshall,) requesting his attention to the business. But I hope you may be at home to give your personal attention to this matter, so interesting and important to me. Indeed, the acquittal of the vessel might amerce me in damages I could ill meet, but this holy warfare against the slave trade calls for some risks. Could you see, my dear sir, as I see, the multiplied miseries that this devilish traffic is daily inflicting upon this unhappy country, you would, like me, forget every pecuniary consideration in your desire to destroy it. At this moment the whole country along the northern bank of the St. Paul's river is involved in bloody wars. Whole districts are laid waste; towns are burned. The old and the young who are unfit for the market are butchered, and hundreds and thousands are driven in chains to the coast, or compelled to fly the country. Within the past month a whole tribe, including several kings, have fled their country and come to us for protection. But I cannot tell you the ten-thousandth part of the evil. Fire, famine, blood and chains are the necessary elements of the slave trade, and every conceivable combination of these elements are daily produced in this wretched land. Oh, my country! how enormous is thy guilt in this matter—how deep thy debt to poor Africa!

I must now call your attention to another important occurrence in our recent colonial operations against the slave trade. Little Bassa, as you are aware, has been for years the theatre of considerable business, carried on both by the colonists and foreigners, and the subject of colonial jurisdiction over the country has been the theme of much discussion here and in America. But, though the right of soil claimed by the Government here last year was questioned by the Board, (and, in my opinion, justly,) I believe they have never forbid the right of jurisdiction, which has been clearly acknowledged as belonging to the Colony in several treaties with the native princes and headmen. On my arrival here in April last, I assumed the right of our jurisdiction over the territory along the seaboard, *as to foreigners especially*, as indisputable, and ordered a slaver who had established himself there to leave within a given time on pain of having his property confiscated. This trader had been some months here, and had been ordered away in November previous by Mr. Williams, the acting governor, and again a short time before my arrival, both of which orders he treated with

contempt. To my message, however, he saw fit to return a very courteous answer, promising obedience, but alledging the want of a suitable vessel to remove his goods, and requesting time for that purpose. I replied that suitable time would be granted on condition that he desisted from the further prosecution of his business, and again positively forbade his buying or selling slaves while he remained there. About the same time an English trader established what is here called a factory for regular trade, and put a small amount of goods ashore in charge of a native factor. Him also I ordered off, and threatened the seizure of his goods in case of refusal. He treated my message with great rudeness, and positively refused to leave. The slaver in the mean time having obtained renewed assurances of protection from the native princes, began to enlarge his operations, by extending his baracoons, adding to his stores, and making every arrangement for a large and permanent establishment. And to my further remonstrances he now paid no attention, feeling himself too strong and well backed to fear my authority. In this juncture I could not hesitate as to the course to be adopted, and determined at once to maintain the rights of the Colony at all hazards. My arrangements were soon made, and, without any previous intimation of my design, I ordered a military parade on the 18th ultimo at 7 o'clock, P. M. When the men were assembled, I stated to them briefly what had occurred, and declared my intention of proceeding immediately against those foreign violators of our laws. To my call for forty volunteers who were willing to hazard their lives in defence of the Government a ready response was given, and I had the pleasure of soon seeing my number more than complete. The next day I despatched an order to New Georgia for twenty-five volunteers to be ready that evening if required, to join the Monrovians. These faithful fellows, (recaptured Africans,) who are ever ready at the call of their adopted country for any service, turned out to the number of thirty-five, and reported themselves ready for instant duty. I then chartered two small schooners, which, with the Government schooner Providence, were to proceed with a supply of ammunition by sea, and be ready on the arrival of the land force to co-operate in such manner as might appear advisable.

These measures were taken on Friday and Saturday, (the first intimation of the expedition having been given on Thursday evening,) and on Monday morning, the 22d ultimo, at 9 o'clock, the men took up the line of march under command of Mr. Elijah Johnson, (the veteran hero of the memorable defence of Monrovia,) and in a couple of hours afterwards the little fleet put to sea in gallant style, though a strong head wind and heavy current prevented their passing the Cape that day.

Mr. William N. Lewis, the Marshall of the Colony, was charged with the direction of the expedition, and in the execution of my orders, (which were strictly of a civil character, as you will see by referring to documents Nos. 1 and 2,) was only to employ the assistance of the military force in the last extremity. In my addresses to the men I took the greatest pains to impress upon them the idea that the expedition was not for war or plunder, but solely to sustain a civil officer in the discharge of an important duty. And I enjoined upon them the duty of orderly deportment, obedience to their officers, and the strictest discipline, particularly in reference to the property and feelings of the natives through whose country they might pass. When the men were formed in line, and ready to march, I found the number had swelled to about a hundred, so great was the enthusiasm in favor of the expedition.

The wind continued unfortunately to blow up the coast the whole of Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning, to my consternation, I saw our small

vessels putting back around the Cape, having been about sixty hours in vain attempting to get to sea. You may imagine my feelings at that moment; I can never describe them. The worst apprehensions for the fate of the expedition filled my mind. Thus deprived of the assistance of the schooners, their small supply of ammunition and provisions would soon be exhausted in an emergency, and they might be left in the midst of enemies without the means of resistance or retreat. It was at this moment of gloomy forebodings that Sir Francis Russel arrived and put the fine, fast sailing schooner Euphrates into my possession. My plan was adopted on the instant, and, landing her captain and crew, I went on board with arms, ammunition, &c., and proceeded immediately in person to Little Bassa. Within two hours and a half of the time I received her papers, I had her under way in her new service, from the harbor. At daylight on Friday morning, the 26th ultimo, we were at anchor off Little Bassa, and before we could distinguish objects through the early dawn on shore, I despatched a canoe to learn the state of affairs, and to acquaint our people with the news of my arrival. In a few moments the opening day began to reveal a scene of thrilling and fearful interest. In the midst of a small opening in the forest about a hundred and fifty yards from the beach stood the baracoon. A circular palisade fence about ten feet high, enclosing some half dozen houses of native construction, from the sides of which we could distinctly see the flashes of guns following each other in quick succession, while from the woods around a continuous blaze burst forth toward the baracoon from every quarter. Here was war in open view closely and fiercely waged; but of every thing else we could only form conjectures whether our friends were in the baracoon or the woods—the besieged or the besiegers—was matter of the most anxious doubt. Soon, however, we were relieved from one source of anxiety by the return of the krooman, who had landed a short distance below the baracoon, and obtained information from the Kroomen there of the progress of the battle. His first words were, when within hailing distance, "Dem live for fight dare now. 'Merica man had baracoon—countryman lib woods all round—fish men stay brack. Pose you go shore, Gobeno, you catch prenty balls." It was now a matter of some doubt what course to pursue. The Euphrates was well known as a slaver, and should we attempt to land in a body, our own people, taking us for Spaniards coming to reinforce the enemy, would certainly fire on us, and perhaps retreat from the baracoon. To convey information to them, then, and learn their position and wants was an object of the first interest. An American seaman volunteered to carry a letter to the baracoon. I told him it was a mission of danger. He answered, "Never mind, I will go." Accordingly, I despatched him with a note to the commander of our force ashore. As I had foreseen the appearance of the Euphrates had caused great alarm among our people, and when they saw a second canoe from her landing a white man, it was at once concluded that it was for the purpose of concerting measures with the natives for a combined attack on the baracoon. Consequently, Mr. E. Johnson made a sally from the baracoon to cut off the white man, and, most providentially, he had just landed and fallen among the enemy, who, discovering his real character, were about to despatch him with their knives, when Johnson's party rushed furiously upon them and compelled them to a hasty flight. The fellow who held the sailor, and who was busy with his knife at his throat, was shot down, and the poor sailor was thus happily released at the last moment. After the canoe left with my letter, I became so impatient to give those ashore our assistance, that I could not wait the return of the canoe, but, having watched her till she was beached, and knowing if successful she would have conveyed information to our friends before we

could reach the shore, I mustered our little party in two boats and pushed off. The canoe returned first after we had started. The Kroomen seemed highly excited, and told us they had been fired upon in landing, proof of which was given by a ball hole through both sides of the canoe. As we approached the shore we could observe distinctly the movements and position of the combatants. Both sides of the narrow path leading to the baracoon was lined with natives concealed by the close bushes, and the surrounding wood seemed literally alive with them. Along the path thus guarded by a watchful and savage enemy we had to pass; it was a fearful gauntlet, but no man faltered. We kept boldly onward to the shore, each man with a loaded musket on his knee. When about fifty rods from the beach, a small party of five or six came out of the woods to fire at us, but without waiting their salute, I rose in the stern sheets, and taking deliberate aim fired into the group, upon which they scattered instantly without firing a gun. In landing I got capsized, but, though nearly drowned, I held on to my musket and carried it ashore safely.

The revulsion of feeling among those in the baracoon from the greatest alarm at the approach of a supposed enemy to sudden joy on finding a reinforcement of friends with supplies of ammunition, and having command of the harbor, was, as may be supposed, extreme. Caps were thrown up, and loud and repeated huzzas greeted me as I crossed the threshhold of the baracoon. For a moment all seemed to forget the presence of the enemy, and even the shower of balls which came rattling around them were unheeded in their eager rejoicings. But it was only for a moment; each man again rushed to his post and engaged with new zeal in returning with interest the heavy fire from the woods.

I now ordered the houses without the palisade to be destroyed. Of these there was some fifteen or twenty which had hitherto afforded a fine cover to the natives. This work was accomplished with great promptitude, though the men were exposed to a galling fire while engaged at it. I then directed Mr. Johnson to take a party of thirty or forty men and make a sally into a thicket of wood from which we were most severely annoyed, and drive the natives from it. This duty he performed with his accustomed bravery, and cleared the woods, when a party of axemen followed and soon leveled it, so that we now had a considerable space on three sides clear of bushes and houses. The enemy kept up a continuous fire throughout the day from different points, though whenever we charged upon them they fled precipitately. At two different times I headed parties in these charges, and made excursions of nearly a mile through the woods and along the beach. We burned two small towns which were deserted, but could not get near enough the enemy to do him much injury.

Soon after my arrival at the baracoon, (as we had now quiet possession of the path to the beach,) I ordered the Kroomen to commence shipping the property seized by the Marshall; and this work was continued industriously all day, while the rest were as industriously fighting and guarding the Kroomen in their labor. At dark we drew up the boats and canoes within the barricade, and closed the gates, when the firing ceased on both sides, and our wearied men were permitted a little rest, which was taken, however, upon their arms.

The next morning at sunrise the battle was renewed by our indefatigable enemy, who gave us thus early a full salute from a dozen places at once. I occupied the upper story of a native built house, the walls and partitions of which were of matting, and afforded no other protection than that of concealment. At every discharge from the enemy their slugs and balls rattled through and through it like hail.

This morning Mr. E. Johnson led a party through the woods into an open rice field, where he encountered a considerable party of natives, and after a brief contest routed and drove them off, but not without sustaining some injury. He received himself two wounds, and three of his men were wounded, some in two or three places, but none seriously. An examination being now made of the state of our ammunition, I was astonished to find the stock growing low, so immense had been the consumption of this article during the last four hours. Fearing a scarcity, should the fight be continued much longer, as seemed probable, I determined to return to Monrovia for more. Accordingly, about noon I embarked in the *Government* schooner Euphrates and sailed for this place. I arrived here at eleven o'clock that evening, and immediately gave orders to get the necessary supplies. The next morning our town presented un-Sunday-like appearance. Drums were beating, soldiers gathering, the boats were plying on the water, and all was bustle and excitement both indoors and out. So great was the expedition used in the despatch of business, that at two o'clock, P. M., we had on board forty more volunteers, two field pieces, fourteen thousand ball cartridges, with all the necessary et ceteras, and were again weighing anchor for the scene of action.

The reason for my taking such a reinforcement of men was, that information which I thought could be relied on had been given me on Sunday morning that Lang, the Englishman whose factory at Little Bassa we had destroyed, had obtained the co-operation of the Prince of Tradetown, and was on his way to join the natives at Little Bassa. The character of Lang rendered this probable, and so many other circumstances concurred to corroborate the information that I could not doubt it. Every thing depended, then, upon our reaching the battle ground and making our arrangements first. Contrary winds, however, prevented our getting there until Tuesday morning, when lo ! about a mile before us appeared a large brig standing directly into the anchorage ground. Those of our party who knew Lang's brig declared it was her, and of course we had nothing to expect but a battle with her at once. I ordered the six-pounder to be cleared away for action, and the men mustered to man the boats for boarding. All was ready in a few minutes for the action which seemed inevitable, when we had the pleasure to see the brig turning her head towards the leeward, and soon afterwards she was out of sight. Whether it was Lang or not I have as yet not learned; we saw no more of him. On landing I found the fighting had not been renewed after I left, and immediately I despatched messengers to Prince and Bah Gay, the two chief princes of the country, demanding the instant surrender of the slaves, (which on the approach of our party had been carried off by the slaver to the natives,) and requiring them to come in and make peace within twenty-four hours or expect my severest chastisement. These messengers returned in the evening, bringing word that Bah Gay and Prince would both meet me on the beach the next day with the slaves, and comply fully with all my terms. Having now completed the shipment of all the goods found at the baracoon, and sent our wounded on board the schooner, I proceeded to complete our arrangement for the homeward march so soon as the treaty should be concluded. The next day a white flag was displayed on the beach about half a mile from the baracoon, (now named "*Fort Victory.*") I sent a small party out to meet it, who on returning informed me that Bah Gay was waiting some distance further up the beach, but was afraid to approach nearer. I immediately marched out with an escort of seventy men to meet his majesty, who, after a good deal of delay, came forth from the bush where he had been secreted all the morning. About three hundred warriors attended him as a body guard, but in the

midst of this host he exhibited the strongest indications of fear. Before saying a word he put into my possession two slaves, (one had been sent in the evening previous,) and informed me that the rest, ten in number, were in possession of Prince. After some conversation, in which he deplored in the strongest terms his folly in making war upon the Americans, he submitted to the terms of peace which I dictated, and signed a treaty which I wrote on the moment upon a drum head, (a copy of which I send you,) acknowledging our jurisdiction over the country, pledging himself never to deal in slaves again, and agreeing to make full compensation for all the property destroyed by his people belonging to our traders during the war.

The chief headman and about thirty of Prince's people were present, who declared most solemnly that Prince was on his way to the beach with the slaves. I told them if he came that day he should have peace, otherwise I should regard him as an enemy, and take the earliest opportunity of carrying war into his country.

We then marched back to Fort Victory with our freedmen in the centre of the column. In the evening another slave was brought in with a message that Prince would be at the beach at daylight the next morning with the rest. Morning came, however, without bringing his majesty, and, after waiting till after sunrise, I ordered the encampment to be broken up, and the march to be commenced, and with the four freedmen went on board the schooner. After seeing the troops well under way, we weighed anchor and proceeded to Monrovia, with the American and Colonial colors flying above the Spanish.

We arrived safely that evening in harbor, (Friday, the 2d instant,) and on the Sunday following had the pleasure of welcoming home our brave companions who had returned by land. Thus ended the expedition to Little Bassa. Our only loss was a Krooman, who died on Saturday morning of his wounds. Six or eight of our citizens were wounded, some severely, but all are now doing well. According to the confession of Bah Gay, the loss of the enemy was *ten killed and twenty wounded*, but there is no doubt it was much greater.

The greatest praise is due to every person engaged in this most important expedition. The officers behaved with steady bravery, zeal, and discretion, and the men proved conclusively their ability and will to act and endure like good soldiers in defence of their country. The orders to the Marshall to avoid any collision with the natives, and to treat them with forbearance, as well as the Spaniards, were faithfully observed to the letter. After taking possession of the baracoon, (which was done without resistance,) the natives surrounded them, and by taunts and threats endeavored during the whole day to provoke a fight, but the excellent disposition of the men and the prudence of the officers prevented the slightest retaliation; and not even the show of hostilities was made until the natives opened a heavy fire upon them.

We made prisoners of three Frenchmen and Spaniards, who were brought home with us, and I shall take the earliest opportunity of sending them to their friends at New Cesters or elsewhere.

About a month since I wrote Mr. Gurley, by the way of England, giving some general information of the affairs of the Colony. By that letter you will have learned also of the loss of the ship *Emperor*, and of her crew being placed here in my care. These men being here enables me to send home the prize vessel sooner than would otherwise be possible, while the prize affords me the means of sending the shipwrecked Americans to their country, at a time, too, when I find it extremely difficult to provide for them, owing to the extreme scarcity of provisions in this Colony. In whatever

aspect this seizure is reviewed, it seems providential. Every circumstance connected with it has thus far contributed to the success of my plans, and whatever disposition may eventually be made of the vessel at home, the influence of the seizure cannot but be of the happiest kind here, and I shall ever feel grateful to God for having given me the power and will to do what I have done in this case.

With regard to the expedition to Little Bassa, however satisfied I may feel with my conduct, I cannot but feel some degree of solicitude as to the opinion of the Board. Persons situated at different points of vision form opinions so opposite respecting the same object, that, though it appears to *me here* impossible that my conduct should not be approved, I am anxious lest the Board should regard this expedition as inexpedient. I can only say I have acted with an eye single to the honor of Liberia and the Board, and from motives of philanthropy and religion.

We need a good supply at all times of the proper tackle and furniture for vessels. Our merchants do not, and probably will not keep them, as the demand is only occasional; and unless the Society furnish them, we must endure the manifold evils to which we are exposed for the want of them. Rope, anchors, cables, duck, tar, quadrants, compasses, copper sheathing, paint, &c., &c., are among the indispensables.

With regard to the number of persons whom the depositions show have resided among the slaves, justice to myself and them require a word of explanation. Before my arrival here business of every kind in the Colony had become exceedingly dull, and the general impression was that the patrons in America were losing their interest in affairs here, and that poor Liberia must *go down*. In this state of things, while our mechanics could find no employment at home, the slavers offered them plenty of work, high wages, and good Spanish doubloons for pay. The temptation was irresistible, and some whose necessities were too strong for their principles, went among them, but I recalled all the wanderers as soon as I came here. They obeyed at once, and have since shown no disposition to err in that way. I considered in view of these circumstances that sound policy demanded a general amnesty for past offences, and accordingly I satisfied myself with forbidding such transgressions in future, and passing over what had been done before. I am happy to say under my administration there is nothing of this kind to complain of, and I begin now to entertain hopes that the slave trade with all its hateful influences is banished from our waters.

I informed you in a former letter that I had called a meeting of the Council for the 20th of June, but owing to the want of a vessel, and the many difficulties of travelling in this season of rains, they have not yet met. Consequently, many changes necessary to our new organization and the improvements in the various departments of government that I contemplated, still remain to be made.

Things at Bassa Cove remain in *statu quo*. The Fishmen are still in their old place, and will doubtless remain until we apply force to expel them. The return of the Saluda I trust will bring me such orders from the Board, and supply the necessary means for effecting this most desirable object. When I left the Cove in May last I ordered Dr. Johnson to fire upon any slave vessel coming to anchor in the roads or Cove, but he has not felt himself quite strong enough to do so. As soon as I can visit there, however, I will take care that any such indignity on the part of these foreigners shall be punished amply.

Business generally is improving in the Colony, and a good degree of private enterprise and industry is apparent among all classes. It gives me the

highest satisfaction to say that thus far I have been most cordially sustained in all my efforts to reform and administer the Government, and I believe I hazard nothing in saying that a new and better spirit animates the citizens in reference to both the public interests and their private affairs. I attribute this entirely to the evidence given by the recent movements in America, that the Colony is still beloved and will be sustained there. The people of this Colony are not behind any people under the sun in point of morals and public spirit, and it only needs the right kind of management at home, and good direction here, to bring them up rapidly to a high point in the scale of national consequence.

I established a mail some two months since between this place and Bassa Cove, but lately it has been interrupted by the hostilities at Little Bassa; however, I hope in a short time to see it again in regular operation.

It is surprising to see the numbers of Englishmen engaged in trade along the coast, to say nothing of Frenchmen and Americans, who, though constituting a considerable body, are but a small minority of the traders. I was informed lately by an Englishman from the Bight of Bennin, that there were not less than *thirty-seven* large ships and brigs lying in the Bonny river at that time, all engaged in the palm oil business. Many of these ships are of eight and nine hundred tons burthen, and this remember at a single point, and in reference to a single article of trade.

Since my active hostility to the slave trade has become generally known, slave vessels have grown quite shy of the Colony, and of course I have not the same facilities for gathering information with regard to the presence of American slavers on this coast, though I occasionally collect a few facts. The following two vessels have been recently captured and carried into Sierra Leone: The "Jack Wilding," of Baltimore, a fine large schooner, with a full cargo and eleven hundred doubloons on board, taken at Aera about a month ago; the "Waukeen," of New Orleans, taken at New Cesters a few weeks since. There are two other American schooners, regular slavers, now at the leeward, whose names I have not yet been able to learn. There are at present *twenty* English men-of-war on the coast, and though they are vigilant and successful to a degree, I would undertake, with a single American cruiser and proper authority to act, to make more seizures and more effectually injure the slave trade here than the whole of them. The reason is obvious: they in nineteen cases in twenty dare not touch a vessel under the American flag, and every slaver now is furnished with that sovereign protection.

I begin really to feel ashamed of the great length to which I have spun out this communication, and though there are many other topics I had intended to touch, I must, in very pity to your eyes, draw to a close. My health has been very poor until quite lately, though it is still scarcely tolerable. I have suffered far more from the fever during the past four months than in the whole of my former residence in this country. I must repeat the doubt expressed in a former letter of my ability to continue in this very arduous office. The great variety of duties which require personal attention, the continual excitement and anxiety, and the unceasing mental exertion to which I am exposed day and night, is quite too much in a climate where nature seems scarce equal to the task of sustaining herself. In all candor, too, and sincerity, I must confess my *incompetency* for the office. As I day by day consider the wants of this Colony, and reflect upon the qualifications necessary to govern and direct the various and conflicting interests, to adjust and regulate all its important concerns, and to develop and form the character of the people and the nation, I feel hum-

bled and ready to cry out against myself in very vexation for having taken upon me such responsibility. I am not sufficient for these things.

With great esteem and consideration for yourself and the gentlemen of the Board, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. BUCHANAN, *Governor.*

To the Hon. SAMUEL WILKESON,

General Agent of the Am. Col. Society, Washington.

The following are the Documents referred to by Governor Buchanan, in his previous despatch:

Copy of Commission and Instructions to William N. Lewis, as Marshall in the Expedition to Little Bassa.

COMMONWEALTH OF LIBERIA:

To all whom it may concern:

Know ye, that in virtue of the authority vested in me by the American Colonization Society, as Governor of this Commonwealth, I have deputed William N. Lewis, and by these presents do depute and constitute him a Marshall of this Commonwealth, with special authority to proceed forthwith to Little Bassa, there to seize the person of one Tarriss, and other white men connected with him, at a certain slave factory, and expell them from this territory; also, to seize all the property of every description belonging to said slave dealers, and either convey it to this place, or destroy it on the spot; also, in like manner to seize the goods and property of every kind whatsoever which may be found in the trading factory of one Murray or Lany (Englishman) and convey it to this place or destroy it as aforesaid, and to destroy with the factories aforesaid all the buildings belonging to them.

And for the proper execution of this precept, the said William N. Lewis is hereby empowered to call on the military force of the colony, and other citizens, and the officers and men of any military company, and all good citizens are hereby commanded to aid him in the discharge of these duties.

Given at the Government house, Monrovia, this twenty-second day of July, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-nine.

WILLIAM N. LEWIS, ESQ., MARSHALL, &c.

When you arrive at little Bassa and have taken possession of the slave factory (which will be the first object of seizure) you will at once secure the Frenchman and his family, by placing a proper guard over them. You will proceed there with such assistants as you may select to release the slaves and take them under your protection, when, if the schooners shall have arrived, you will, without loss of time, convey all the moveable property on board, except the rum, which in any event must be destroyed on the spot. As far as possible you will have an inventory of the cases, casks, &c., seized, and the greatest caution must be used to prevent any person unauthorized even touching an article.

Should the schooners not have arrived when you take possession, you will ascertain if there are any means of subsistence for the expedition, and in the exercise of a sound discretion decide whether it may be practicable to remain until the arrival of the schooners. If you deem it advisable not to wait, you will, with all expedition, proceed to destroy all the property in the most

effectual and summary manner, leaving only what small articles of personal necessity the Frenchmen may be able to take with them.

You will also seize all the property of the Englishman, and in like manner bring it here or destroy it. The slaves you will bring here with you, and all the white men may be either driven *down* or *up* the coast, so that they are got rid of, but any thing like insults or injury you will take care to prevent being inflicted by any of your assistants. Hereof fail not.

Yours, &c.

To ELIJAH JOHNSON, Captain Commanding the Volunteer Expedition to Little Bassa:

SIR : You are hereby authorized and commanded to take charge of the expedition of volunteers about to proceed to little Bassa. You will spare no pains to establish strict military discipline among the officers of your command. On your arrival, you will assist the marshall, Willim N. Lewis, who accompanies you, with your whole force, in securing and removing or destroying (as he may direct) all the property to be found which he may seize.

Having taken possession of the place, you will detail a sufficient number of men to aid the marshall in disposing of the property, taking care however, not to weaken too much the body stationed on the outside as guards, sentinels, &c.

You will at no time, nor on any pretence, relax for a moment the strictness of discipline nor the authority of martial law: and by no means suffer any communication between the natives and your men—the natives and the slavers, or between the slavers and your men—you will command the colonists living at Bassa to join your standard,—which, if they refuse to do, you will arrest and bring to this place for trial.

In the discharge of any of the duties enjoined upon you here, or required of you by the marshall, you will be careful to avoid any violence to the persons or feelings of those against whom you are required to act, unless resistance is offered, which of course you must overcome by force.

Should any one under your command so far forget the character of a soldier, and be so regardless of the honor of his country, as to attempt to leave his post without orders, to plunder, or in any way shew disrespect or disobedience to superior officers, you will not hesitate to arrest or punish him on the spot, according to martial law. But I am not willing to anticipate the smallest difficulty from such a base spirit. Those who have so generously volunteered in the service of their country will do their duty like men, and do honor by their acts, as they have already in pledge, to the name they bear as citizens—soldiers of Liberia.

Circumstances which it is impossible to foresee must determine the course of procedure with regard to the property seized, and the length of your stay at Little Bassa. I have communicated my wishes and orders to the marshall on this subject, with whom you will consult and act as may appear advisable.

Given this Twenty-second day of July, at Monrovia, in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-nine.

Treaty made Aug. 1, 1839, between the Commonwealth of Liberia and Bah Gay, Chief of Bassa.

It is hereby agreed between Thos. Buchanan, Govenor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, and Bah Gay, one of the Kings of Little Bassa, that there shall be perpetual peace between the colonists of Liberia, and the people of the Bassa country.

Bah Gay on his part agrees that there shall be full compensation made for the property destroyed by any of his people during the recent hostilities committed against the colonists. He also agrees that there shall be no slave trading within his jurisdiction forever. He farther agrees that there shall be no interruption to the trade of the colonists with his own people or others in this country forever; that any colonist residing in his territory shall be protected and defended against injury or molestation. He farther agrees that the supreme jurisdiction of the whole country of Little Bassa belongs to the Commonwealth of Liberia, and that in all matter of intercourse with foreigners or Natives, the Governor of Liberia shall be consulted, and his decisions shall in all cases be final. Especially does he bind himself and his successors never to engage in any war without permission of the Governor.

[SIGNED.]

THOS. BUCHANAN, *Governor.*

his

[SIGNED.]

BUSH & GAY.

mark.

Signed in presence of N. LEWIS, *Marshall.*

LITTLE BASSA, 1st August, 1839.

THE OURANG OUTANG.

Africa's Luminary, a paper published in Liberia, gives the following account of an Ourang Outang recently taken in the colony, and approaching nearer to man, it is supposed, in form and manners, than any before captured.

We have seen several animals of the above class in this and in other countries, but never saw one, nor even heard of one to compare with the female Ourang Outang now in the possession of Dr. S. M. Goheen, and to be seen at our mission premises.

Jenny (for so the Doctor calls her) was obtained by him about five months ago from a gentleman of this town, who had purchased her from a native only a few months previously.

She is four years old, and measures two feet four inches in height, being as well proportioned, and as much like the human species in the formation of the different parts of the body, as any of the same class of animals of which we have any record. She was taken quite young by some native Africans, and was clinging to the abdomen of her mother when the latter was killed by them. Her teeth are regular and perfect; she has four incisors, and two canine, and six molars, in each jaw, and presents the exact appearance of a human face and head.

The length of time she has been in a domesticated state, and particularly the last five months, has served to develope the astonishing degree of sagacity, approaching almost to reason, with which her species are furnished by the great Creator of man and brute. It is no small source of amusement to us, and quite a relaxation from the constant routine of business and care, to take a peep at Jenny occasionally; see her go through her various exercises, all of which are most obediently performed at the bidding of her master, and mark her diverting powers of imitation. She is chained by the neck to a piece of wood driven in the ground, the end of which is about eight inches above the surface. A line just high enough to admit of her grasping it by a slight spring upward is fastened by one end to the back wall of the kitchen, and by the other to a fine orange tree which shades the spot. Jenny's movements on this tight rope are truly diverting. She not only suspends at ease by either hand or either foot,—for her feet are well adapted to all the purposes for which the hand is used—but walks in an erect position on the rope,

balancing herself with exact precision by the use of her long arms. When in good humor—which, by the way, is not always the case, for she, too, gets into fits of passion, and requires the rod of correction—Jenny performs some exquisite feats of agility, swinging from side to side; supporting herself by one limb, then by another; lying down on the line, arms and legs suspended; making somersets; and in every possible manner showing the great activity and quickness of movement peculiar to her race.

Her attempts to open the lock by which her chain is secured, when her master designs to treat her with a romp among the fruit trees in the garden, and the privilege of picking a soursop, papaw, or orange, are remarkable. Jenny takes the key from the hand of the doctor, sits down on the log of wood, and very patiently tries to insert it into the hole of the padlock. After repeated failures, all most patiently endured, she succeeds—the key is inserted, but to turn it around so as to start the spring is too much for her, and she has to be indulged with some assistance.

Nothing escapes her among the persons in employ at the mission house; and every thing is imitated so exactly, that our risibles are severely taxed—as for instance, Jenny concludes she ought to do something toward the washer woman's department; and if she can only be indulged with a tub of water, and a piece of rag, she rubs, shakes, squeezes, and wrings, with all the intense application of a first rate laundress.

At her meals, too, this imitative faculty is equally observable. Jenny uses knife, and fork, and spoon; and if the latter be held awkwardly, her master demands it from her, orders her hand to be turned, which she obeys, and receives the handle of the spoon between her fingers and thumb with no inconsiderable apish grace. Observing the boy of the house cleaning the knives and forks by rubbing them on the board, Jenny concludes that her spoon ought to receive the same attention, and so gets a stone and commences a series of rubbing, by no means calculated to give a very fine polish. Observing the carpenters at work not long ago, she found a nail, obtained a piece of board, and with a small stone for a hammer, began to drive in the nail as fairly as any young apprentice to the trade.

But the most amusing is to see the effect of music on her nerves and passions. We sometimes indulge her with a visit in the mission house, take up an accordian, and play her a tune; the excitement, the transport she is drawn into, and her various gestures and movements, are astonishing. She jumps up and down on all fours for a while; then springs on a chair, and has a caper; and sometimes mounts on the back of the chair, giving all the evidence of being perfectly charmed. Should Jenny ever visit the United States, we apprehend she will afford a fund of amusement for thousands of the curious.

[She was brought here by the Doctor, some time since, and was disposed of by him for a handsome sum.]